

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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ART 34 AMDT

1. A system for screening off an area, a partition element (2) substantially covering a space between two upstanding carrier elements (1), the partition element (2) being catchable in the carrier elements (1) in an unstable preparatory position in which it lacks the ability to remain by its own force, and is movable therefrom to a fixedly locked position in the carrier elements (1), **characterised in that** the partition element (2) includes locking means (12) each with their guide section (18) for interlocking engagement with each respective carrier element (1), in the fixedly locked position or vice versa, and each with its snap catch (19) for retaining, on the one hand, the guide section (18) in its position and, on the other hand, the partition element (2) in the fixedly locked position in the carrier elements (1).

2. The system as claimed in Claim 1, **characterised in that** the partition element (2) includes two pins (11) which are catchable in a groove (17) in each respective carrier element (1) or vice versa, in the preparatory position.

3. The system as claimed in Claim 2, **characterised in that** the groove (17) inclines obliquely downwards so that the pins (11) are retained therein in the fixedly locked position in the carrier elements (1).

4. The system as claimed in Claim 2 or 3, **characterised in that** the groove (17) is undercut and the associated pin (11) displays complementary configuration.

5. The system as claimed in Claim 3, **characterised in that** the depth of the groove (17) is greater than the diameter of the pins (11), so that these are reliably retained in each respective groove (17) in the fixedly locked position.

6. The system as claimed in Claim 1, **characterised in that** the snap catch includes a spring element (19) which is actuable by an actuator device (20) for releasing the locking means (12).

7. The system as claimed in Claim 6, **characterised in that** the actuator device (20) is disposed substantially inside the locking means (12).

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8. The system as claimed in Claim 6, **characterised in that** the actuator device (20) is disposed substantially outside the locking means (12).

9. The system as claimed in Claim 8, **characterised in that** the actuator device (20) is
5 disposed in the carrier element (1).

10. A method in the mounting and dismounting of a partition element (2) on two upstanding carrier elements (1), where the partition element (2) is hooked in the carrier elements (1) in a temporary, unstable preparatory position and is thereafter either moved to a
10 stable, mounted position in the carrier elements (1) or is reopened completely, **characterised in that** the partition element (2) is locked in the mounted position when it is pressed beyond the unstable preparatory position.

11. The method as claimed in Claim 10, **characterised in that** the fixedly locked position
15 is attained by the partition element (2) being snapped in position in the carrier elements (1) when the partition element (2) is pressed against the carrier elements (1).

12. The method as claimed in Claim 10 or 11, **characterised in that** an actuator device (20) is activated by a special, separate tool for releasing the partition element (2) from the
20 fixedly locked position.